T/SOR/49/1/19

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT

Issue 1 Acting Locally, Thinking Globally

Worried about the cold this Winter? Energy companies are not; they love it.

Last winter between December and March 55,000 elderly people died from cold related diseases, according to new figures released by the Office of National Statistics. And according to 'Help the Aged' the main reason for this is poverty. While during the same months British Gas made £664 million clear profits. It is a fact that pensioners will go without food or heating in some of the coldest periods of winter, just so they can beat off the fear of disconnection and pay their bills while British Gas or Manweb continually reap the rewards and increase profit. One example of the hardship pensioners face at the hands of energy companies is the case of retired miner Bill Gallagher. Bill froze to death in his bed, because the £5 card he bought was not enough to reconnect his electricity – Bill and his wife were £20 in debt. Albert Smith a retired postman expressed what many pensioners feel ' there is no point hiding the fact that I'm frightened of winter'. Even despite the £200 heating allowance the government will issue to pensioners, Bill feels it will still not be enough to heat his house.

British Gas
Home Energy

Why is it in a so-called civilized country, must we fear being able to afford to keep warm or feed ourselves, when companies like British Gas and Manweb can and do increase their profits every year, by charging extortionate rates for what is basically is an essential need. Why when it is we the working class of this country who generate gas, electricity and water, are we the ones who do without and put ourselves through suffering to pay these bills.

If winter wasn't hard enough for millions of pensioners, Liverpool City Council are to end the daily meals on wheels service and introduce bulk delivery of frozen meals. One consequence of this is the ending of the free Christmas Day and Boxing Day meals always provided. Councillor Ron Gould commented: "Pensioners don't like charity and are happy to pay".

Burglers might rob your home, Gangsters might rob you with a gun , but politicians and business men rob you with a fountain pen and a smile.

Help The Aged Helpline:020 7253 0253
Age Concern: 0151 236 4440

People Not Profit is a collective; we are not run by any political party. We are against anyone or any group, be they sympathetic or not, that wishes to control our ideas or our lives. We believe we are at a critical time in local, national and world politics and the crucial question is – will it be us who win, the people who want to see a better, fairer world, or will it be them the tiny minority who are prepared to take us and our world to the point of extinction in their thirst for profit. Have you had enough? We have!

People Not Profit aim to work in a number of ways to resist oppression and promote Anti-Capitalism principals and ideas.We do this and will continue to do this through art, poetry, theatre, music, social events, demos, newsletters, the distribution of literature and any other creative and interesting way we think will promote our ideas. We also promote and support any cause that fights against corporations and capitalism, and we are building and will continue to build a network of volunteers whose ideas and beliefs are like ours - to fight and expose this corrupt capitalist system. We also aim to publicise and become an umbrella group and focal point for individuals and groups who are sympathetic to our aims.

EUROPEAN POLTICIANS SEEK PROTECTION IN NICE

As the spirit of Seattle comes to the French Riveria

One year after the protests against the World Trade Organisation it is clear that the anti-capitalist movement which crystallised on the streets of Seattle has lost none of its momentum. Europe has seen two significant mobilisations which shared Seattle's rage against the system. In Prague, the World Bank and IMF were forced to abandon their annual meeting after nearly 20,000 demonstrators took over the streets in a day of marches, blockades and running battles with the police. The European Summit in Nice on December 6 and 7 was rocked by a trade union demonstration of 100,000 against privatisation and by anti-capitalist blockades. The tear gas which got into the conference centre air-conditioning system seems to have soured the mood of the European leaders. The summit broke up in disarray a few days later without agreement on the key issues under debate.

More than 500 people travelled to Nice from Britain. The delegation from Merseyside included a group from People not Profit, members of UNISON, pensioner activists and students. We joined trade unionists from France, Italy, Spain and across Europe, French peasant organisations, Unemployed activists, the anti-capitalist group ATTAC and anti-racist campaigners. The same slogans rang out in dozens of different languages: ***Our world is not for sale - Le monde n'est pas une marchandise.*** **Against the determination of the bosses and bankers to impose privatisation across Europe we are building international solidarity and a European-wide fight to defend jobs and public services. *'Whose streets?'* The answer came back: *'Our streets'. Whose world? 'Our world'. Whose Europe? 'Our Europe!'***

LOCAL ROUND UP

Environmental issues are not just a global concern, our health and living conditions are being attacked locally as well. Merseyside Hazards Centre has been set up to give people the opportunity to take on such issues themselves.
For info or advice ring: 0151 726 9595.

Public enquiries, once an outlet for the community to voice concerns, are now increasingly an excuse for corporations to force plans through. Knowsley Council refused permission for Redrow Homes to build luxury houses on an old armaments dump containing such materials as asbestos and arsenic, after a local action group campaign. Redrow, who have the backing of a massive US corporation, are now suing Knowsley to pay for the enquiry and their costs.

Kirkby residents have been complaining about the local Sonae factory since it opened, after suffering from headaches, nausea and respiratory problems. A council commissioned report decided emissions from the plant did not breach regulations despite poisonous chemicals having been found in the waste. They have suggested heightening the chimney so we can all be poisoned.

Liverpool City Council may give Shanks Waste Services the go-ahead to build a pyrolysis plant. They claim this doesn't burn waste, just 'roasts' it. The emissions, however, will be deadly and include Dioxins, which induces an estimated 8100 cases of cancer per year in the UK, Mercury, and Cadmium, which damages the kidneys and lungs. Shanks are linked closely with Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Smell something rotten?

A local campaign group in Bootle won an important victory when the council rejected plans to build a landfill site in a residential area close to five schools. Nearby the Captain Jack council estate has been neglected due to false boundaries, that mean it falls outside two adjoining pathway areas, both receiving European money.

If you have a story, to tell that isn't being told, about a campaign in your local community – or if you have a tale of injustice – don't hesitate to contact People Not Profit. (address overleaf). We know that if we are struggling alone we have very little power to make changes, but together in our common concerns and causes we can not only change our city we can change the world.

WHO GIVES A TOSS!

Global Warming = rising sea levels, freak climatic changes.

So Governments in the West and in particular the USA have admitted that the profits of corporations are more important than people.

In the latest summit in the Hague talks between world leaders (the people who are supposed to represent their people) to reduce global warming collapsed, because like in every other world summit, the USA, rode rough shot over everyone else in the world, by refusing to do anything about Industrial gases that threaten our planet. In other words they refused to do anything about Multinationals polluting and destroying our world – admitting that they feel the profits of corporations are more important than halting the increase in global warming which trigger rising sea levels and climate changes. According to Robin McKee the Science Editor in the Observer, this refusal to act, leaves us open to 'the dangers of climatic chaos' this includes total sinking 'of nations such as Bangladesh and the Maldives major disruptions in weather patterns destruction of habitats and crops, and the emergence of new epidemics' (26/11/00) basically it's going to get worse, the floods we have witnessed this year are only the beginning and it's obvious the government are going to do nothing to control corporations ever increasing lust for profit.

'What corporate America wants, the world usually gets'. David Edwards

The USA alone, who virtually control the world now, with only 5% of the world's population is responsible for 24% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions (which pollutes the air, causing global warming).

Corporations are in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we walk on. They are in the food, the clothes, the cars, the speed, the news, the music, the cool, the hype, the sex. They are in the pill that calms us when we can no longer control our rage. And we are saying no more, we want our lives, our streets and our world back!

People Not Profit believe that our future and fate rests in the hands of ordinary people like ourselves not in the futile appeals to politicians and government leaders who have proven time and time again, that they will side with the powerful and not the people. We believe that only when people come together will our strength become apparent not only to ourselves but to those in power.

FOR MORE INFO check out FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: www.foe.co.uk/

EZ LIFE

gReed Off Our Backs

On December 6th, coinciding with the NIce demonstration, People Not Profit held a demonstration backed by local branches of the P.C.S. (Civil service union) against Reed , the private employment agency that runs the Employment Zone. (EZ)

The Employment Zone is based on the premise that the private sector is more efficient, cost effective etc than State owned public services, with all the old arguments that the free market, if left alone, will provide for everyone. The terrible irony being that it is the nature of capitalism itself that creates unemployment. Overproduction, unceasing competition between companies (who needs 37 different washing powders.) Workers simply discarded in times of economic crisis. Lives, villages, cities destroyed. And Reed are making a huge profit from all of this.

In Hackney, East London, Reed pocketed £250 Million from New Deal applicants who found jobs without any help from the gREEDS. This is no partnership. It is stealing taxpayers money.

At the moment the Reed scheme is compulsory for all those in Merseyside over 25 and unemployed longer than 2 years. The compulsory element , means that those claimants affected will have personal advisers from Reed, will have benefits paid for by Reed, and may have their benefit stopped by Reed if they do not accept the first job.

In the manic rush to stigmatise the unemployed it has been forgotten that no one actually enjoys unemployment. We know life is hard enough without all this shit. Unemployed people go to colleges, do unpaid voluntary work, and remind those in work what's in store for them if they don't do what the're told.

Why should we agree to be slaves in a basically authoritarian structure? We should have control over it ourselves. Why shouldn't our communities have a dominant voice in running the institutions that affect our lives? Noem Chomsky

Indeed, another terrible irony is if this scheme comes to its full fruition it will mean massive job losses amongst Benefit workers in the existing Employment service and Benefit agency.

The Liverpool demonstration of December 6 was extremely vibrant, colourful and angry. It resulted in Reeds managment, a company that refuses to recognise unions, calling in a represantivr of the the P.C.S. Union wondering who the hell these people were with drums, whistles, shaky things and a banner that read " Reeds: No Corporate slavery." When Reeds managers surely saw the Nice demo on the t.v. the next day a shreik of recognition was uttered, " It's them. **We are everywhere.**

Contact:

PeopleNotProfit for more info.

Coming Events

***Critical Mass Bike Ride**

3rd Sat every month (Meet Hub, Berry St)

***Creative Lets Showcase.**

Featuring the Pick of Local Radical Talent

12th ~~Febuary~~ SAN, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane (7pm)

People Not Profit have many protests and social events coming up right throughout December and January, watch out for posters, leaflets and drummers around town.

LOCAL/GLOBAL ROUND UP

MERSEYSIDES MOST NOTORIOUS. POLLUTING AN AREA NEAR YOU

KING AND FOWLER LTD - L3 4BG
CAMMELL LAIRD GROUP PLC - L41 9BP
SHELL UK LTD - L41 9BP
HAYS DISTILLATION SERVICES - L19 8EG
BASF PLC - L41 1FG
HARCROS TIMBER AND BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD - L41 3PX
LUBRIZOL LTD - L62 4SH
QUEST INTERNATIONAL UK LTD - L62 4SU
UNICHEMA CHEMICAL LTD - L62 4UF
CHESHIRE CHEMICALS LTD - L19 8JA
CML GROUP LTD - L44 7ER
CRODA RESINS LTD - L24 9HL
UML LTD - CH62 4
ORGANIC INTERMEDIATES LTD - L24 9GG
WRIGHT AND BEYER LTD - L41 8BL
FMC CORPORATION (UK) LTD - L62 3NL
LEVER BROTHERS LTD - CH62 4ZD
ELI LILLY AND COMPANY LIMITED - L24 9LN
EPICHEM LTD - L62 3QF
PHOENIX CHEMICALS LTD - L62 3PW

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE COMPANIES: check out FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: www.foe.co.uk/

MICKY CAUGHT RIPPING OFF KIDS

Did you know that in Thailand recently Disney sacked 1,145 workers and replaced them with cheaper sub-contracted labour including 10% child labour, and this when their Chief Executive Michael Eigner earns more than $300 million a year.

In Liverpool on 25th November a group of people entered the Disney Store on Church Street, presenting their arguments to the much loved multinational – this was all part of **BUY NOTHING DAY** – in the store the group urged people to dump their plans of purchasing unnecessary useless crap and to **BUY NOTHING**. Meanwhile leaflets began to appear in consumer magazines throughout the city, urging people to sack capitalism and buy nothing. **BUY NOTHING DAY** is an annual worldwide event that seeks to draw attention to obsessive consumerism, corporate corruption and the exploitation of people and the environment. *More info: Adbusters Magazine or www.adbusters.org*

New Internationist: www.newint.org

RONALD McDONALD ON THE SICK

Saturday 2nd December was a bad day for McDonalds,Lord Street! As Liverpool University Green Group, People Not Profit and the SWP held a demo with around 20 protesters, which soon attracted (due to the racket of the People Not Profit drummers) 100 more. Numbers increased as over 1000 leaflets were distributed and people stopped to read the 8-metre banner. The police, not happy with the demo exposing their masters, attempted to intervene at one point, but were soon forced to retreat as they became aware of a hostile crowd gathering around the periphery of the demo. The day was a great success, as more and more people were made aware of how McDonalds evil empire is built on the exploitation of people, animals and the environment.

For more info on what really lay behind the smiles of McDonalds and other High Street stores check out. www.mcspotlight.org
www.corporatewatch.org

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